

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| In re Application of | : |
| | : |
| SYED M. KARIM et al. | : LIFTING DEVICE AND PANELBOARD |
| | : EMPLOYING THE SAME |
| | : |
| Filed Herewith | : Attorney Docket No.: 03-EDP-301 |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

February 17, 2004

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

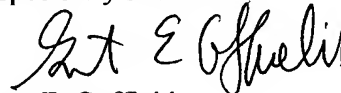
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants identify the patents listed on the attached Patent and Trademark Office Form PTO/SB/08A for consideration during prosecution of the subject patent application. Copies of each cited U.S. patent are not enclosed herewith. See Pre-OG Notice "Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003 (signed 11 July 2003)".

Additional background information is discussed in the specification under the heading "Background Information."

This Statement is filed solely for the purpose of complying with the pertinent rules of the Office and is not intended to be a substitute for an independent evaluation by the examiner of the art cited or an independent search by the examiner, and no representation of any nature is made or intended by the filing of this Statement.

In addition to the art cited on form PTO/SB/08A, Applicants and/or their attorneys may have been exposed to or considered additional art relating to the general class of the subject matter of the invention. However, if in fact such exposure or consideration has occurred, to the best of their recall or judgment, none of such art is prior art which is more relevant than the art cited.

Respectfully submitted,



Grant E. Coffield
 Reg. No. 52,758
 Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
 600 Grant Street, 44th Floor
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 Attorney for Applicants

(412) 566-6965

+

+

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | |
| | | | | Filing Date | Filed Herewith |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Syed M. Karim |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | |
| | | | | Examiner Name | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 03-EDP-301 |

[illegible][illegible]

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

+